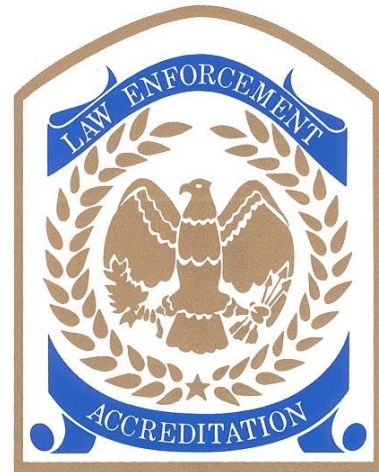


Muscatine Police Department



Annual Report 2020



**A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency
Protecting and Serving Since 1851**

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Muscatine Police Department

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

TO: Muscatine Mayor and Council

THROUGH: Carol Webb, City Administrator

DATE: February 8, 2021

FROM: Brett Talkington, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Police Department Operational Report, 2020

The Muscatine Police Department submits an annual Operational Report to the Mayor and City Council as part of the requirements of our national accreditation. The purpose of this report is to provide an update of police department activities and to identify the major issues facing the department at this time. In addition, this information will hopefully provide some insight into the future trends or emerging issues which may impact the delivery of police services in some way.

Like many other years this year brought new challenges. As March 2020 rolled around COVID became a reality for the whole world to deal with. We had to learn how to handle our jobs keeping, not only our officers safe, but the community we served as well to help alleviate the spread of the virus. It was very challenging for the officers to adapt to the new "normal" with all the protective equipment we had to wear as well as trying to keep vehicles sanitized when dealing with arrestees trying to keep everyone safe. It was hard for the officers as we basically had to stop doing some of our daily tasks to make sure we all stayed safe, but still provided services and protection for our citizens. When a citizen called we responded and dealt with whatever situation we were tasked with, just in a safer manner. It was a learning curve for the department, as well as the citizens. We all adapted and did what we had to.

We found out that this COVID 19 pandemic brought more stress for the officers dealing with people struggling with severe mental health issues throughout the year. We were dealing with many of the same individuals due to mental health officials that were not readily available for much of the year due to the pandemic. We also had to deal with the reality of the judicial system and the jail not handling many of the people we were encountering as well. Due to COVID the jail was very strict on who we could detain at the jail due to the spread of the virus it may have on the other inmates. As we continue to deal with the COVID 19 virus we look forward to some sense of “normalcy” in 2021. Until then we will continue to keep everyone safe and do our jobs to the best of our abilities.

I continue to challenge our supervisors and officers to come up with ways to implement problem oriented and community policing strategies. We had some promotions in 2020 due to retirement of a Lieutenant in July. We will continually look for ways to transform and look for ways to better our department and the community we serve. The Police Department continuously looks to improve community involvement through community policing efforts and problem orientated policing. These are top priorities for our agency.

The Patrol Division and Major Crimes Unit are the backbone of the department. The officers and detectives are proactive within the community. Our dedicated officers place their lives on the line every day. The citizens of Muscatine should be very proud of the job the officers do on a daily basis.

A safer community is built on a framework of progressive law enforcement strengthened by public awareness, education and involvement. Together, we will find new solutions to community challenges. There are many challenges to our profession with all the unrest in 2020 with all the senseless killings and attacks on our law enforcement officers across the country.

We as a community need to do our part. We have had many positive interactions in our community over the course of 2020. During some protests this last summer there was positive dialogue with the protesters. We would like to think we have made some positive strides within the community with positive interactions with our citizens. We will continue to build these relationships within our community.

I hope that this annual report is useful and helpful when considering the state of the city as it pertains to your police department. The statistics we provide are meant to give a numerical overview of what’s happening in our city, but always remember

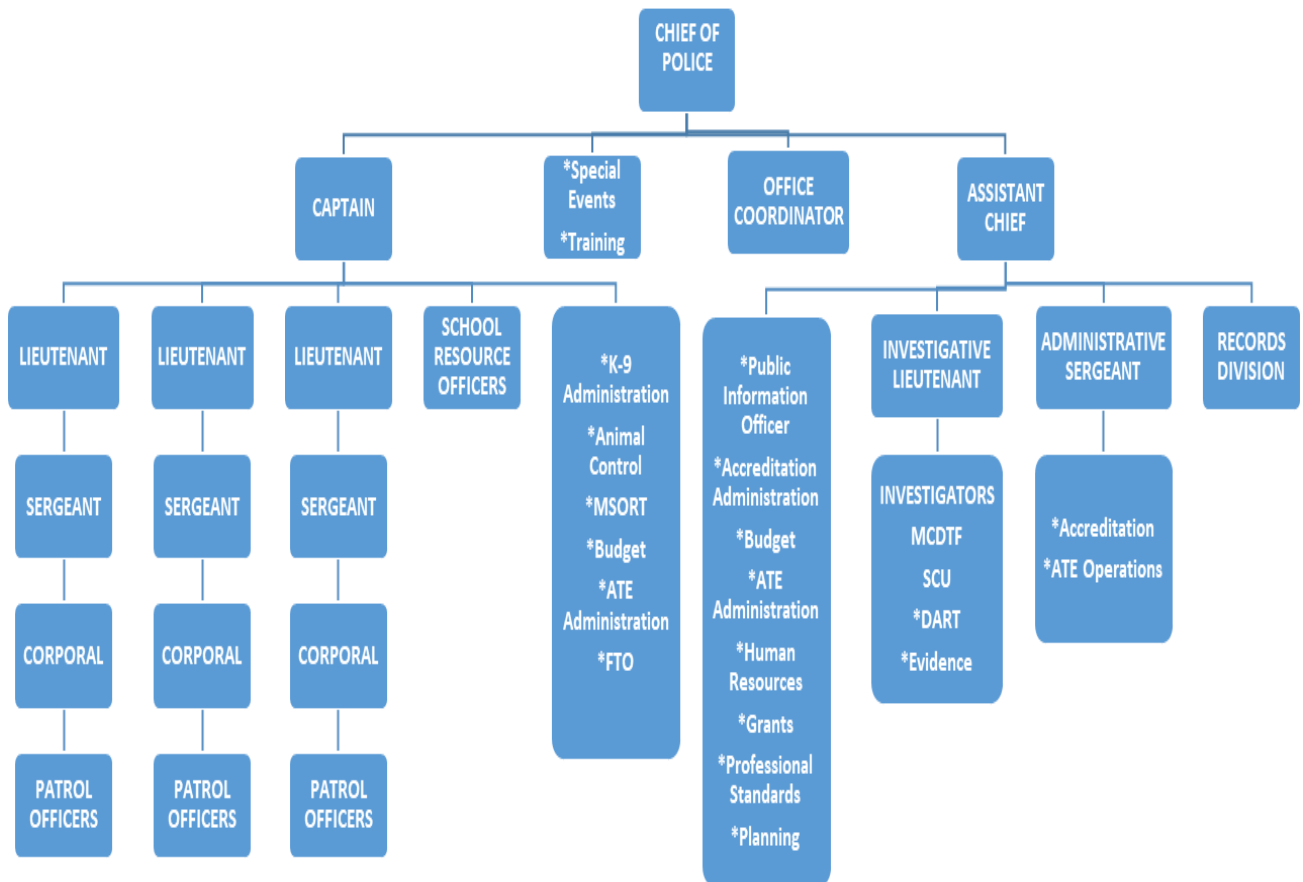
not to put your faith in what statistics say until you have carefully considered what they do not say.

Credit for the preparation, development and gathering of the information contained herein, goes to many people. It is the combined effort of administrative, supervision, line-officers and clerical personnel. It is our hope that this information is as useful to others as it is to us as we look at the issues currently facing the department and our community as a whole.

With that, I would like to thank you for supporting our department throughout the year. As always, I hope you will find our summary of 2020 interesting and informative.

Chief Brett Talkington
Muscatine Police Department

Muscatine Police Department Organizational Structure



Total # of Sworn Officers: 41
 Total # of Officers for Patrol: 27
 # of Investigators: 7
 # of Off Site Officers: 4
 # of Administrators: 3

Every organization needs/has structure. Perhaps the best definition of a police organization is that it is a system of consciously coordinated activities, with a common goal, divisions of labor, coordination of effort, and most especially in our domain, a hierarchy of authority. No other department of city government has more of a need for such a hierarchy, than the police. Million dollar jury awards are

routinely leveled against cities all over the nation, for things that police do and shouldn't have, or do not do, and should have.

The structure of this organization plays a very important role. Not just in authority and responsibility, but in active "risk management." To the casual observer, an organizational chart may look like a genealogical attempt gone wrong. In the law enforcement environment, it helps to explain how the organization functions. An organizational chart reveals four basic dimensions of the organization's structure:

1. Hierarchy of Authority (who reports to whom).
2. Division of labors (what group performs what function).
3. Span of control (how many people are supervised).
4. Line and Staff position (who is doing what).

The theory behind the dimensions of this organizational structure demonstrates the basic tenants of our operational theory, as illustrated below:

1. Division of Labor (people become proficient when they perform standardized tasks over and over again).
2. Hierarchy of Authority (a formal chain of command ensures coordination, accountability and responsibility).
3. Rules and regulations (carefully formulated and strictly enforced rules assure some behavior, and prohibit other behaviors).
4. Administrative Impersonality (personnel decisions such as hiring, promotional eligibility, and firing are undertaken in-part by an authority (Civil Service Commission) other than the organization's chief executive officer).

The Muscatine Police Department has historically followed a traditional organizational model, much like most other law enforcement agencies. For the most part, law enforcement has embraced such an organizational structure because law enforcement has traditionally functioned best through a coordination of effort, much like the military. Coordination of effort is achieved through formulation and enforcement of policies, rules, and regulations. Our chain of command is nothing more than a control mechanism dedicated to making sure the right people do the right things at the right time.

Patrol Division

The patrol division operated with three shifts throughout 2020. Patrol operated with three shifts throughout 2020. For the first six months the afternoon & night (2nd & 3rd) shifts were assigned a 10-hour shift schedule, (4 days on – 3 days off), while day shift remained on an 8-hour shift schedule, (5 days on – 2 days off). By July 2020, all three shifts resumed a 10-hour schedule. The extra manpower created during this overlap was used to supplement several things, such as special patrols, community policing projects, increased bike patrols, and department training.

The patrol division faced several challenges throughout 2020. Due to personnel shortages, officers had to be pulled from other assignments to help maintain adequate coverage within the patrol division, some of those reassignments will continue into 2021. The department had to replace a K-9 officer, which further hampered staffing issues due to the 6-weeks of training it consumed.

The Black Lives Matter movement came to Muscatine and peaceful protests took place at Mulberry and E 5th St. for several days. Though this group created no problems, officers were placed on 12-hour shifts, with restricted access to time-off, as a contingency.

As Covid-19 hit, a series of department training events were cancelled or postponed and patrol officers were required to adapt to a new way of going about their duties. The Muscatine County jail placed new restrictions on the types of prisoners they would accept. This has resulted in the release of several individuals that officers would have normally locked up, which in turn allowed those individuals to continue their criminal activities uninterrupted. An act of terrorism was committed against the department when two street gang members tried to intentionally drive a vehicle into the Public Safety Building.

Officer response to individuals suffering mental health crisis doubled in 2020. These are often difficult situations for officers as the individual has often committed no crime but still in need of support, direction, and connection to services to better themselves. Some of these individuals become violent or pose a threat to themselves or others, which creates a need for emergency committal action. The amount of emergency committals doubled in 2020. Overall, 2020 was a busy year for the patrol division that required a lot of adjustments.

The patrol division has strived to make some very positive changes in 2020. In February, all supervisors attended Ethical Policing Is Courageous, (E.P.I.C.) training. This is a program that is designed to educate officers on ways to intervene in situations where they feel another officer may be losing emotional control or is about to do something unethical. Each supervisor then provided this training to the members of their shift. The department immediately began to see a positive influence from this training and decided to explore taking it to the next level. Project A.B.L.E. was discovered, which stands for Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement. Building off of the EPIC philosophy, project ABLE training is only accessible through Georgetown Law School. The Muscatine Police Department successfully applied and was one of 35 agencies nationwide selected to participate in the first round of training.

Project ABLE is a concept designed to prevent public harm through developing a department wide commitment to the ideals of peer intervention. It establishes annual training protocols as well as policy revisions that support and protect officers who do intervene. It is truly a department wide commitment to active bystandership.

In the summer of 2020 several members of the community came together and formed the DEI group, which stands for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The group's purpose, in its simplest form, is to create community discussion and awareness about equitable representation and opportunities within Muscatine and to help ensure all segments of the Muscatine community feel included and supported. The department saw the need to be a part of these very important discussions and has been participating with the DEI group since it was formed. There are now three members from patrol who are participating with various segments of the DEI group. The department is also planning a community survey to help obtain feedback on how the department is perceived by the community and what the agency might be able to improve upon.

The Police Chaplin Corps has been active within the department since 2013. It has continued to grow and become a more intricate part of the police department. Headed by Pastor Tom Berryman, they are constantly looking for ways to improve upon their training and expand their roles within the department. Pastor Berryman is assisted by Pastor Alex Kindred, Pastor Don Timmermann, Pastor Brian Oliver, and Pastor Steven Brown.

The Chaplin Corps fulfills a dual role, that of community involvement and counseling during traumatic events such as, serious or fatality accidents, suicides, homicides, or death notifications. They also support Department staff through

counseling and have helped officers through critical incidents. Chaplin Corps members make an effort to embed themselves within the Department's patrol shifts and establish relationships with officers. This helps employees get to know and feel comfortable with members of the Corps. It is the intent of the Department and the Corps to provide an alternative outlet for officer wellness and informal counseling. The Chaplin's involve themselves in other activities such as the Shop with a Cop program, the Holiday Stroll & the Department's Police Memorial service. The department sponsors training opportunities from time to time for members of the chaplain corps.

The Patrol Division supports a number of specialty assignments that department members can volunteer to be part of. These include assignments such as the School Resource Officers (SRO), the K-9 Unit, Bike Patrol Unit, Muscatine Evidence Technician (M.E.T.) program and the Special Response Team (SRT).

School Resource Officer

The School Resource Officer's (SRO) are Officer Whitney Peña and Officer Angela Shoultz. Officer Peña works primarily in the High School, while Officer Shoultz works primarily with the Middle Schools. During the summer break months both officers get reassigned to patrol. The SRO positions are rotated every 3 to 4 years.

With the Covid Pandemic in full swing the SRO's left for spring break and did not go back to school until August of 2020. When they went back to school it was very different for everyone. Staff and students were learning how to adjust to a new norm as well as the SRO's. With not as many students in each school building the SRO's have had to develop new programs and ways to keep kids engaged.

SRO's have had to change their positions into much more than a police officer. More mentoring and check-ups have had to happen this year due to how Covid-19 has impacted our children and lack schedule.

This year both Officer Peña & Officer Shoultz have made sure to visit every building and meet with staff about issues surrounding with the pandemic and how it has affected each individual building. Obviously this year is different from any other year and the SRO's are dealing with more truancy and home visits than ever before. Student safety is a top priority, education and training are two keep components in keeping everyone as safe as possible. SRO's have had to monitor computers and make sure that kids are using their technology that was given to them by the school appropriately.

Officer Peña & Officer Shoultz are both part of the Muscatine County Impact of Substance Use task force. As part of this task, they focus their efforts on educating students about the perils of substance abuse. They also educate parents on how to recognize substance use indicators within their teens. This past year both Peña and Shoultz have secured funds to buy a drug educational trailer for the use of all schools in the Muscatine County area. The trailer will be used at different events and parent teacher conferences every year and is for adult education.

K-9

The Muscatine K-9 Unit operated with two dog & handler (K-9) teams for the second half of 2020. Officer Jacob Walker was selected to be the second handler and was in service at the end of July with his partner Dino. Officer Walker selected a German shepherd that was trained as a dual purpose K-9. Cpl. Minnat Patel with his German shepherd, Nero, continues to work the streets. Both dogs were trained as dual purpose (narcotic & street patrol) dogs.

Having two teams assigned to the Muscatine K-9 Unit, allows the department to provide K-9 coverage over a broad range of hours, as the K-9 teams are assigned to opposite shifts. Dual purpose K-9s have the following capabilities: Narcotic Detection, tracking, apprehension, article searches, and crowd control. K-9 teams are subject to callouts should an event require their skills but neither team is not on duty.

Being down one team over the last six months has had an impact on the department's ability to ensure adequate coverage and availability outside of normal working hours. Members of the K-9 Unit work closely with the department's Street Crimes Unit as well as outside agencies such as the Muscatine County Drug Task Force and the Iowa State Patrol. The K-9 Unit has assisted the Muscatine Community School District with student locker searches, as well as other school districts within the area.

Training is a critical component for effective K-9 employment. The department's K-9 teams have been attending 8 hours of monthly training, where they get together with other K-9 teams from the QC area. Training with a group allows them to network and gain outside insight to their training styles and tactics. In addition to monthly training, the K-9 teams will train on duty as time allows. This ensures that the teams are training in realistic situations and allows them to demonstrate proficiency while at work.

Bike Patrol

The department's Bike Patrol Unit was used sparingly during 2020. They may be assigned to patrol the city's bike paths and problem areas, during the shift overlaps. Normally bike patrol is assigned to work several special events, such as the 4th of July, although this year they we utilized less due to COVID. . The Bike Patrol Unit is a voluntary assignment. If selected, officers are sent to a (2) week school to become bike patrol certified.

M.E.T.

The Muscatine Evidence Technician (MET) program is comprised of a small group of officers who have received specialized training in photography, as well as the collection and processing of evidence. They work on an on-call basis throughout the year and are relied upon to process all major crime scenes. These scenes included everything from burglaries to homicide investigations. In addition to being subject to call outs, these officers also help process scenes that are encounter, while they are working shift.

MET members are all assigned lab time, which is located in the basement of the PSB. Here they are responsible for processing any items of evidence that were brought in by officers outside of the MET team. The MET officers undergo continuous training to keep their skills sharp and updated. The Department is committed to running its own competent crime scene investigation unit.

Evidence

The Department's evidence custodian works tirelessly to rid the evidence room of items that are no longer relevant due to either case resolution or statute of limitations. She also logs in new evidence on a daily basis. She is the first evidence custodian the agency has hired with a non-law enforcement background. She has been doing a great job for the agency. The department would like to expand her duties, giving her more responsibility in the area of physical evidence processing, but her status as a Temp employee creates some hurdles. The agency will be working towards getting her certified to test marijuana and process other items of evidence.

Animal Control Officer

The Animal Control Officer (ACO) has been busy throughout 2020. The ACO responded to (837) calls for service and had (78) bite cases this year. Bite cases were up by (7) in 2020. The ACO uses Facebook as a way to reach out and connect with the public. She uses it to post stray animals and has enjoyed some great success in reuniting them with their owners. She also has people who contact her via Facebook asking questions and seeking advice.

The ACO continues her efforts to organize a pet microchipping clinic in conjunction with the Muscatine Humane Society, but due to Covid-19 in 2020 this event has been postponed. The goal of a microchipping clinic is to allow citizens to bring their pets to have a microchip implanted for a discounted price in effort to reunite more pets with their owners when lost.

Another goal for the ACO in the upcoming year is to increase the number of city pet licenses and focusing on pet ownership responsibility. The ACO continues to have a positive working relationship with the Muscatine Humane Society, local vet clinics, outside animal agencies, and other city employees. Animal and community safety continues to be the top priorities for the ACO.

General Information

The Criminal Investigations Division with the police department is under the direct command of Lt David O'Connor. The division is comprised of three different groups each focusing on specific disciplines. The Major Crimes Unit (MCU) is made up of three general crimes detectives, the Street Crimes Unit (SCU) consists of two officers, and the Muscatine County Drug Task Force (DTF) includes two assigned officers to the joint task force.

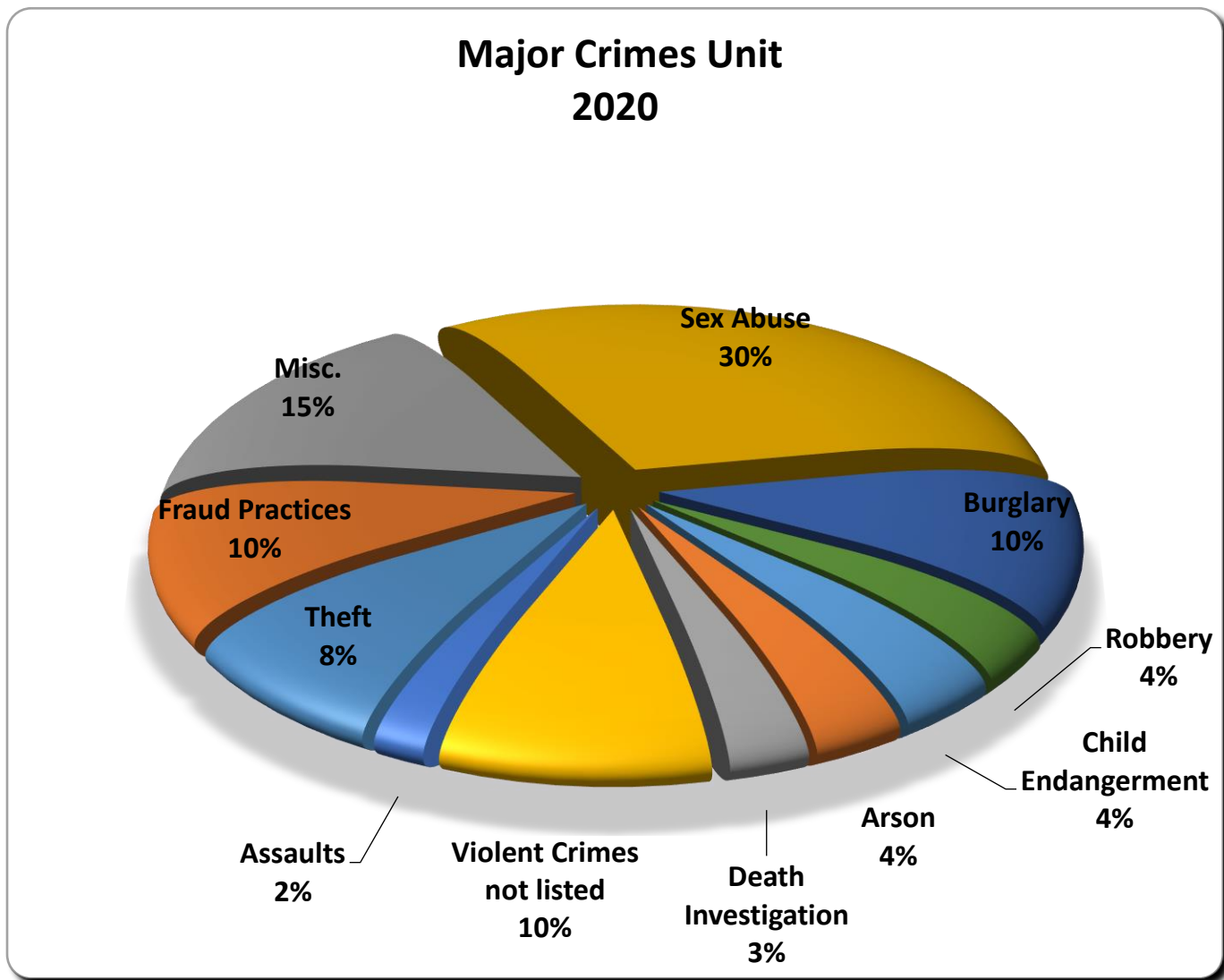
Major Crimes Unit (MCU)

The MCU has three officers assigned to the position of Detective with the police department. This unit is primarily responsible for investigating a wide range of criminal behavior, including property crimes, financial crimes, and violence against others. Most incidents being investigated by the MCU Detectives originate from the patrol division, where crucial initial information is gathered before being forwarded. For this reason, each Detective works to maintain a strong relationship with all other areas within the police department, and work towards forging a positive relationship with the community.

A portion of criminal investigations conducted this year, much like every past year, involve female victims of all ages. These include incidents of domestic violence, harassment, exploitation, and sexual abuse, violent crimes and crimes involving weapons. The MCU has seen an increase in crime with weapons and violent crimes this year. This year has been a bit of a challenge as with many others due to COVID-19. Investigations have been assigned to work from home for several week this year due to exposure mitigations. During this time they have been asked to make an office area in their homes to work out of and expected to continue developing positive case clearance.

The investigations division also continues to maintain equipment and software that focuses on examining mobile devices, such as cell phones and tablets. The examination also includes analysis of the data for purposes of furthering active investigations and eventual criminal prosecution. This analysis is conducted by the Major Crimes Unit for all appropriate cases with the Muscatine Police Department, but is also designed to support surrounding agencies in a joint effort. In 2020, approximately 110 electronic devices were examined, and the data analyzed and prepared. This process involves working jointly with surrounding law enforcement agencies, where a search warrant was presented to examine the items. The MCU

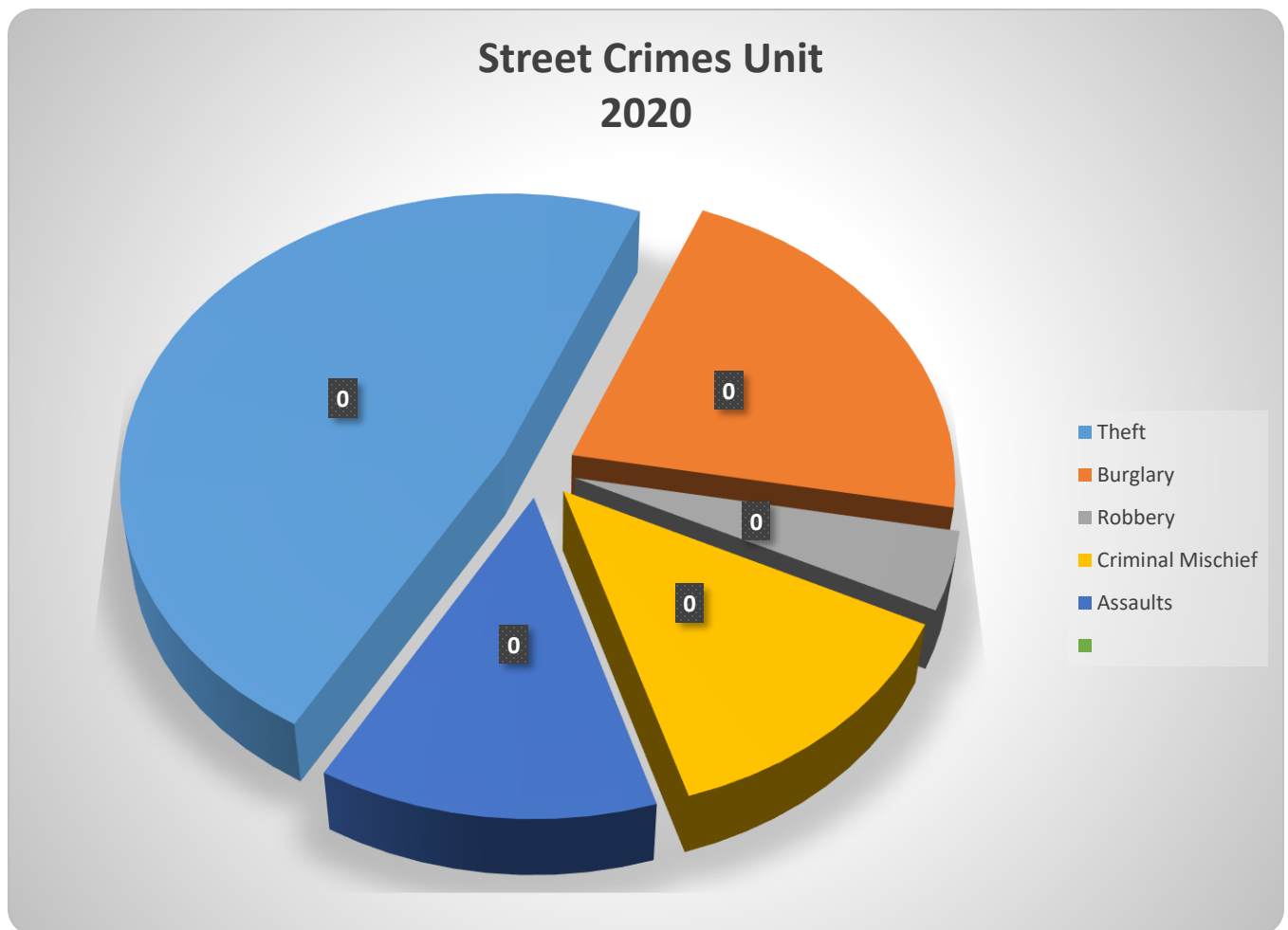
assisted the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office, Muscatine County Drug Task Force, Louisa County Sheriff's Office, Cedar County Sheriff's Office, Tipton Police Department, Columbus Junction Police Department, Iowa DNR, West Liberty, and the Iowa Department of Transportation with this task.



Street Crimes Unit (SCU)

The SCU has two officers designated to this assignment as investigators. They work primarily as a two-person partnership on a daily basis and are assigned cases that originate in the patrol division as well. Their primary focus concerns criminal behavior involving firearms and other weapons, drugs, and violence against persons. The unit is also focused on criminal gang behavior in the community, including gathering and managing intelligence of known gang affiliates and their associates.

In 2020, SCU was put back on patrol to due to manpower issues. We are looking to be able to get SCU back up and running early 2021. With the absence of SCU we transferred approximately 25 cases to MCU for investigations/follow up. These cases could have been worked by SCU and detailed a much more proactive approach with gang members and affiliates in our community.



Muscatine County Drug Task Force (DTF)

The MCDTF continues to function as a joint multi-jurisdictional task force that covers Muscatine County, Cedar County, and Louisa County. The MCDTF also continuously assists several outside agencies, including Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Johnson County, and agencies in the Quad Cities area. As in years past, the MCDTF also works closely with agencies from the Federal Government and participates regularly in federally indictable offenses.

The Muscatine Police Department has continued to assign two full time investigators to serve as part of this task force. While they are under the command of Lt. Kies and the police department, they also are required to successfully work within the team environment at the task force, and take operational command instruction from the Task Force Supervisor from the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

The task force once again had a productive and successful year even after making some adjustments due to COVID-19. DNE Agent Chad Page oversees the unit and made adjustments to keep staff healthy so they could assist our agencies if needed.

Muscatine County Drug Task Force Statistics (Calendar Year 2019)

Arrests	74
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Search Warrants	39
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Drug Seizure

Cocaine	25.2 grams
Methamphetamine/ICE	3411.5 grams
Marijuana	19,987.6 grams

Other Seizures

Firearms	22
Currency	\$10,875.00
Total Operations	299

PROBLEM ORIENTED (POP) AND COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING (COP)

Problem Oriented Policing is defined as *“policing strategies that involve the identification and analysis of specific crime and disorder problems, in order to develop effective response strategies utilizing community interaction wherever possible.”* POP as well as Community Policing projects have become a cornerstone of proactive law enforcement efforts in Muscatine since their introduction by then Chief of Police Gary Coderoni in the early 1990's. Since that time the Muscatine Police Department has operated or been involved in numerous projects and programs that have attempted to address issues within the community while developing greater interaction between citizens and law enforcement.

Some programs have met the need and been discontinued, only to be re-deployed again later such as the Street Crimes Unit. Others have fulfilled their goals and then permanently disbanded. At its most basic, Problem Oriented Policing is the identification of an issue, developing a strategy to address the issue and deployment of that strategy. The addition of a Community Policing component to the equation helps to develop a common goal between the citizens and law enforcement.

Junior Police Academy

In late June of 2019 the Muscatine Police Department, in cooperation with Muscatine Community College and the Muscatine High School, held the 1st Annual Junior Police Academy. The goal of this program was to foster a strong relationship with high school aged students in the community and surrounding areas that are interested in law enforcement as a career. The hope is to keep young people living near Muscatine after they complete their schooling and potentially seek employment with the Muscatine Police Department. **Due to COVID 19 this program was put on hold for 2020. We will attempt to have another class, if possible, in 2021**

If future employees of the department are hired from the local area, could help tremendously with staff turnover. The program helps the younger generation see what police officers do on a daily basis and gain positive insight into law enforcement. There is one academic scholarship awarded to one student of the class based on various criteria.

Muscatine Center for Social Action

In 2020 the Muscatine Police Department continued its close cooperation with the Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA). Since 2006 a member of the police department has sat on the Executive Board for MCSA. The ability of the MPD member to participate in the operational and logistical decision making process has helped to create a common goal mentality between the MCSA and the MPD. This has helped foster a greater understanding by each entity of what the others goals are and how we can best work together to achieve those goals.

Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Region has established a crisis line that currently services Jackson, Clinton, Cedar, Scott, and Muscatine County. Officers have begun to distribute the crisis line phone number or call directly while on a call for service when interacting with an individual or family in crisis and the disability services staff will respond to the scene to render assistance. The MCSA has established a Mental Health Peer Drop-In Center which is an extension of the disability services program. This program has been a great tool when officers come into contact with those suffering from mental health or other related issues that are not typically law enforcement specific.

Park & Walk

The Muscatine Police Department continued its “Park & Walk” project during 2020 until COVID surfaced late March/April. This project is designed to allow officers an opportunity to get out of the squad car on foot patrol and interact with the community on a non-enforcement related basis. Officers are encouraged to spend 30 minutes each shift on foot somewhere in their assigned beat area, visiting places like schools, the downtown business district, parks, and housing complexes. Though the primary goal of this project is to create opportunities for personal interaction between officers and the community, it has the added benefit of becoming a deterrent for criminal activity as well.

Operation Clean Sweep

In 2020 “Operation Clean Sweep” continued to be active for a portion of the year. There were follow ups done on graffiti complaints. Operation Clean Sweep is designed to enforce the graffiti ordinance by gaining the cooperation of property owners to quickly remove graffiti and businesses to restrict purchase of spray paint by juveniles. Study after study has shown that when graffiti is removed within 24-48 hours of going up there is a nearly zero reoccurrence rate. As part of the program, suggestions are made to the property owner on how to avoid similar occurrences. Some of these suggestions are;

1. Report graffiti to the police department immediately
2. Restrict access to prone areas by planting trees and shrubbery
3. The installation of lighting in dark, targeted areas
4. The use of graffiti resistant surfaces when possible.

Coffee with a Cop

The “Coffee with a Cop” project active during 2020 up until COVID started in late March/April. This project allows officers and citizens an opportunity to converse and interact outside of their normal roles. During the year there were several events hosted by the local McDonald’s where people had a chance to voice concerns, ask question or just get to know the officers.

Members of the Muscatine Police Department Chaplains Corp were able to be involved in a few of the events. The primary focus of these events is to allow for a low stress environment for interaction but there is also a beneficial exchange of information as well. Both sides can get outside of their official roles as citizen or officer and take the opportunity to talk to the person underneath.

Other Events & Opportunities

The juvenile diversion program continued to remain in effect in 2020, although most classes were virtual. The diversion program is a collaboration between Juvenile Intake, the Muscatine Police Department, and other various county agencies and departments. The juvenile diversion program fits a need to help guide the youth in Muscatine in making better choices while offering them a second chance to get it right.

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In 2020 the department utilized its social media presence in an attempt to recruit new officers for testing provide information about the department through and seek information on active criminal cases. As the younger generations rely on social media for information, implementing this approach on a department level will provide increased opportunities to reach and inform a large number of civilians easily while keeping cost effectiveness in mind.

Muscatine Police Officers Association

Though not under the direct purview of the department, the community policing efforts of the Muscatine Police Officers Association has added greatly to the cause. The Muscatine Police Officers Association (MPOA) is a local affiliate of the Iowa State Police Association. The MPOA was founded in 1934 and is one of the oldest such association in Iowa. The MPOA is a fraternal/charitable organization within the Muscatine Police Department and membership is open to all sworn personnel. The MPOA engages in a variety of fundraising events during the year which bring great positive attention to the department and to the goals of the MPOA.

The charitable efforts of the MPOA deal mainly with the youth of Muscatine and the surrounding area. Through programs like “Shop with a Cop” the MPOA seeks to foster good relations with those that will one day become citizens of our community and to improve the department’s image within the community.

The MPOA sponsors both boys and girls sports activities through Muscatine Parks & Rec, the Youth Sports Foundation and other such organizations. The MPOA is also the primary contributor to the Police Explorer program. However the MPOA’s oldest and most recognized activity is the “Shop with a Cop” program which began in 1991. For the last 29 years the MPOA has conducted its “Shop with a Cop”

This year it was done differently. The kids picked out \$150 worth of merchandise online. Walmart employees then gathered the items and had them ready for the PD to pick up. Once it was picked up our personnel wrapped a large bag with a Christmas bag. The kids then came to the PD lot and we took the gifts out to the car for them. This was the only way to do it safely during COVID. The families really enjoyed the experience. Hopefully back to shopping with them in person at Walmart this Christmas.

Law Enforcement Accreditation

Law Enforcement Accreditation began with the creation of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) in 1979. The Commission was created through the joint efforts of the major law enforcement executive associations:

- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- Police Executive Research Forum
- National Sheriff's Association

The purpose of CALEA's accreditation program is to improve the delivery of public safety services. Their stated goals are:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities
- Formalize essential management procedures
- Establish fair and non-discriminating personnel practices
- Improve service delivery
- Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination
- Increase community and staff confidence in the agency

CALEA's governing body is comprised of twenty-one commissioners. Eleven must be law enforcement practitioners and the remaining ten are selected from the public and private sectors. The commissioners are appointed by the four founding law enforcement organizations and serve without compensation.

There are currently more than 600 accredited law enforcement agencies in the United States and also some in Canada, Mexico and Barbados. In the State of Iowa, there are eleven (10) accredited law enforcement agencies to include 8 Municipalities, 1 Sheriff's Office, and 1 state law enforcement agency

The Muscatine Police Department received its initial accreditation award in December of 2000. Since that time we have been awarded reaccredited status in 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015, and 2019. The department's next accreditation award is slated for 2023.

Law Enforcement Accreditation puts the police department in much better position to defend against any lawsuits which may arise since the department is complying with national standards of operation and not merely standards developed by the police department. Having people from outside the agency come in to critique our policies and procedures and help us identify those which do not meet national standards is a plus for the department as well as the city. Being accredited also lends itself to lower overall insurance premiums for police liability insurance.

In addition, accreditation aids in creating better quality, trained and professional personnel. By requiring officers to adhere to policies that have been developed and approved through the accreditation process and CALEA, officers are performing assignments in a manner that is nationally accepted as the best practices for law enforcement. As a result, accreditation has led to advances in the investigation of criminal incidents, prosecution of criminal cases and overall customer service within the community for the Muscatine Police Department.

AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Background

In 2010, the City of Muscatine awarded the contract for our Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) initiative to Gatso USA. Through accident data as well as speed and red light violation surveys we decided that eight (8) approaches at five intersections would receive the equipment. The system was set up to monitor red light violations as well as speed violations at all five (5) intersections. The intersections selected for the ATE equipment were:

Washington St at Park Ave (north and south approaches)
Cleveland St at Park Ave (north and south approaches)
Cedar St at Houser St (east and west approaches)
University Dr at US Hwy 61 (westbound approach)
Mulberry Ave at US Hwy 61 (westbound approach)

The ATE equipment was built and installed by Gatso USA at no cost to the City of Muscatine. The City and Gatso USA worked closely with the Iowa Department of Transportation to ensure that the entire construction and sign placements were completed to their requirements. Winter weather delayed the construction process during December and January. Each intersection has speed limit signs and red light signs that clearly advise that photo enforcement equipment is used at those intersections. In addition to those signs, the City elected to put up “traffic laws photo enforced” signs on every corporate limit signs posts on roadways entering Muscatine.

The camera/radar system detects violators and passes the violation information to a Gatso employee who verifies that a violation appears to have occurred and then they create a violation package that includes location information, violation information and vehicle information. This event package is then sent to our department for review. A police officer who has been trained on the system reviews the data and determines if a violation of the city ordinance has actually occurred and if the violation, location and vehicle information matches what is viewed in the photos and video. If everything matches up and a violation has actually occurred then the officer will issue a citation.

The ATE equipment not only detects and documents red light and speed violations but also has other capabilities. The use of ATE's allows us to allocate officers to other areas of town for community policing needs and traffic enforcement to make

the city and surrounding areas safer. The cameras in Muscatine have been used by successfully by officers and prosecutors as evidence in citing and prosecuting drivers involved in traffic crashes at or near these intersections. The system can be set for license plate recognition for Amber Alerts as well. On two occasions the cameras in Muscatine have been used to corroborate evidence in criminal cases, one being a drive by shooting. They have been invaluable in these cases

On March 11, 2011, the Automated Traffic Enforcement equipment was activated at the intersection of Cedar St and Houser St. On March 18, 2011, the Automated Traffic Enforcement equipment was activated at the intersections of US Hwy 61 and Mulberry Ave, US Hwy 61 and University Ave and Park Ave and Cleveland St. Because of property questions and construction delays, the intersection of Washington St and Park Ave wasn't active until May 21, 2011. Each intersection had a warning period of 30 days.

Since 2007, the Iowa State University Institute for Transportation's Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) has conducted three research studies related to Automated Traffic Enforcement. These three studies have been funded by the Iowa Department of Transportation. Late in 2013, the CTRE released the latest study that supported the use of Automated Traffic Enforcement. This study, "Improving Traffic Safety Culture in Iowa – Phase 2" was a survey of the attitudes and opinions of the citizens of Iowa. **The survey found that 56.4 % of those surveyed supported the use of ATE equipment for speed enforcement and that 70% supported the use for red light detection and ticketing.**

The recommendations from this study were to "pursue increase in automated enforcement to reduce speeding related crashes and other aggressive behaviors, such as red light running." These recommendations mirror the research from 2010 and 2007.

In 2014 we saw the Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation's "Primary Highway System Automated Traffic Enforcement Guidelines" became an administrative rule even though there isn't a state law to correspond to these rules.

In March 2015 Steve Gent, the Director of Traffic and Safety told the City of Muscatine that we must remove the camera system at the westbound approach at US Hwy 61 and University. He stated that the camera was within 1000 feet of a speed change, crashes had stayed the same or risen slightly and that there were a high number of speed cites issued from this approach. The City of Muscatine appealed this opinion based on a number of factors.

1. The IDOT engineered this approach and signage placement and went so far as to install the signs where they said they need to be. We requested the IDOT to move the signs to the 1000 ft mark on numerous occasions.
2. The idea that speed enforcement could not be conducted within 1000 feet of a speed change goes directly against current state law.
3. The ATE system at this approach was installed for speed enforcement. Crashes weren't a factor in this decision. This is a portal to a major business district in the city and, as such, the reckless habits of speeders created a major hazard to the business, their employees and their consumers.

The City of Muscatine and a number of other cities in Iowa filed suit against the Iowa DOT in June of 2015. April 2017 a district judge in Polk County ruled the IDOT had the authority. Following this ruling, the City of Muscatine and the other cities appealed the decision to the Iowa Supreme Court.

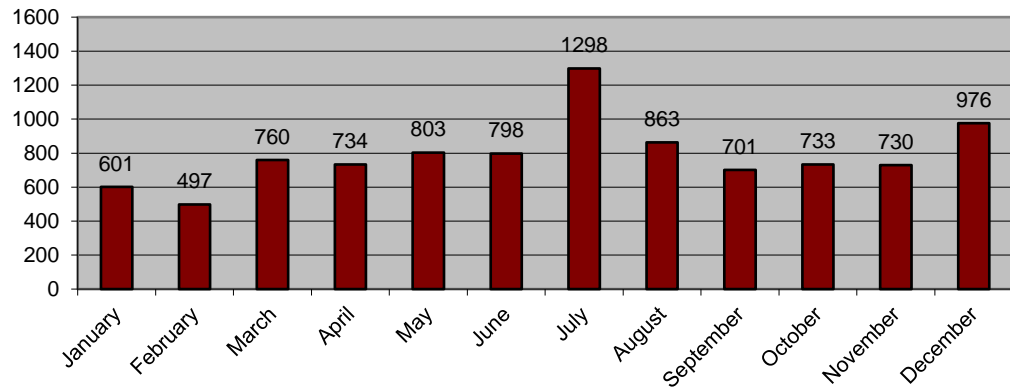
Current Statistics and Events

April of 2018 the Iowa Supreme Court issued a ruling in favor of the cities overruling the State of Iowa's creation of the rules. In June of 2018 the camera system for the approach on Hwy 61 at University Drive went live again.

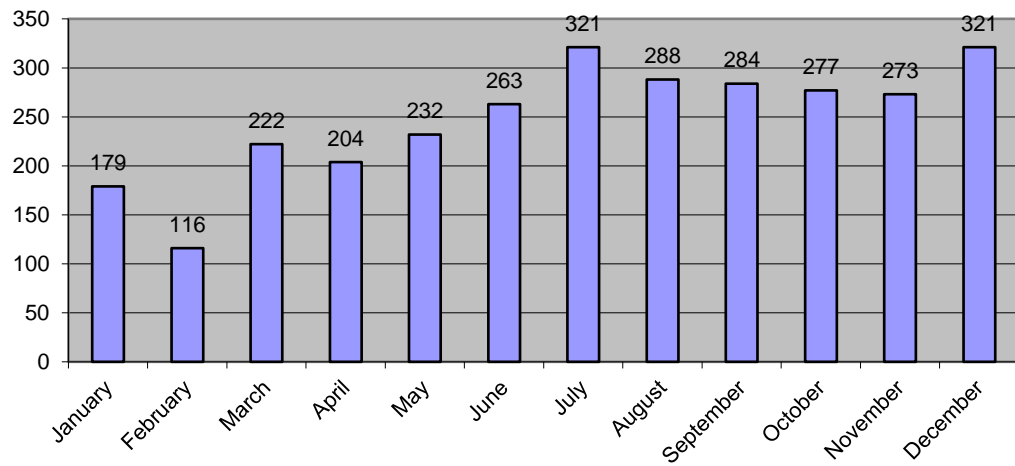
However, in September the Iowa Supreme Court issued a ruling in *Behm v City of Cedar Rapids* that municipalities could not hold a vehicle owner liable for a violation if they ignore the citations and don't pay them or contest them to court. We will be required to issue municipal infraction citations for violations that aren't resolved through payment or transferred to court. Therefore, based on the recommendation of the city's attorney we stopped issuing ATE citations in September of 2018 for all violations until a new ordinance was passed, forms edited and violation processing is changed.

During 2020 there were a total of 12,733 citations issued. 3,052 citations were issued for red light violations and 9,681 citations were issued for speed violations. 1,569 speed violations were generated from the mobile speed vehicle (Chevy Sonic) that was in operation the complete calendar year.

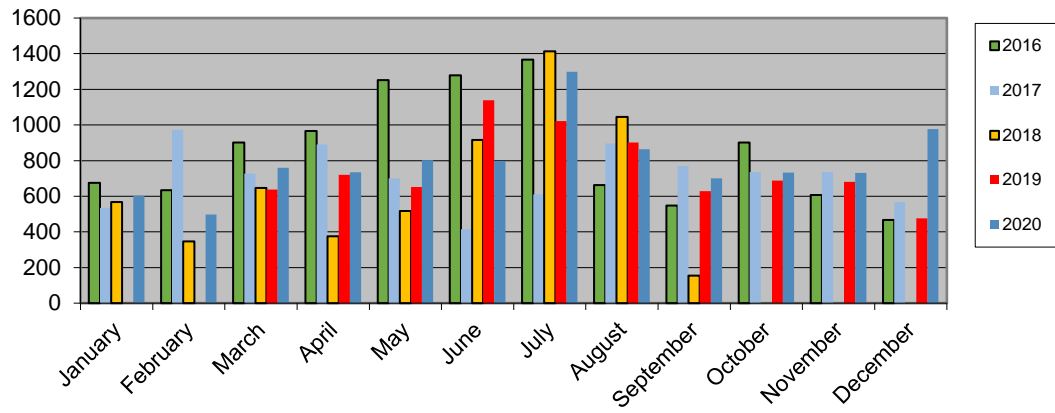
Speed Citations 2020



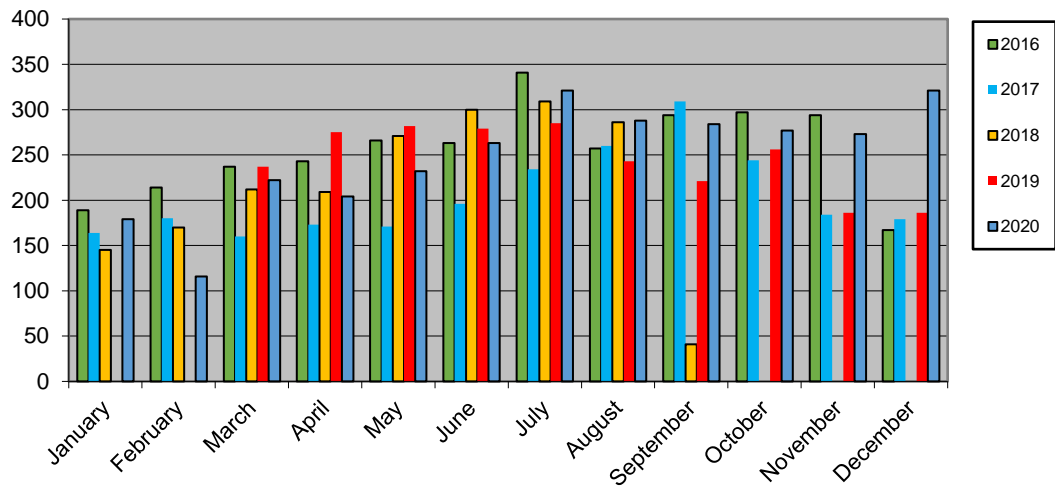
Red Light Violations 2020

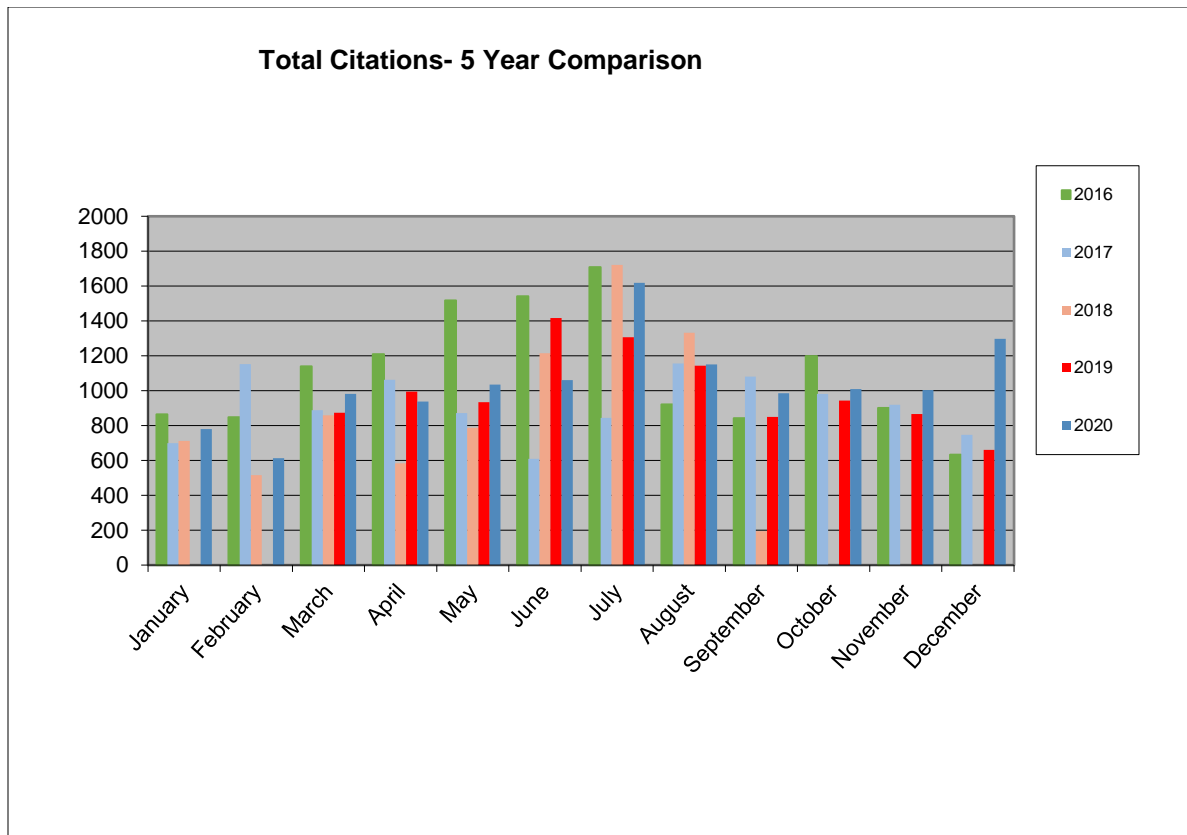


Speed Violations-5 Year Comparison



Red Light Violations-5 Year Comparison





Since 2011 we have seen a reduction in crashes each year at each intersection where ATE equipment is operating. The chart below lists crashes since 2010 at the intersections where ATE equipment is installed.

Year	Total	PI	PD
2010	34	9	25
2011	28	9	19
2012	26	6	20
2013	19	4	15
2014	25	2	23
2015	19	2	17
2016	28	4	24
2017	21	3	18
2018	21	6	15
2019	22	2	20
2020	23	5	18

For 2020 there wasn't a significant change in the total number of crashes at these intersections. Muscatine continues to see a reduction from the pre-ATE era.

Field Training Program

The Muscatine Police Department's Field Training Program is an intensive, hands-on training program that all new recruits are required to complete upon graduation from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. It is structured and organized training which is broken down into four steps or phases. Each step is comprised of a set number of training task lists, which the probationary officer, under the guidance of his/her Field Training Officer (FTO), must master and sign off on. As the probationary officer progresses through each of the steps, he/she is expected to take on more of the work load and demonstrate a continual growth in overall self-proficiency. Upon successful completion of the fourth step, the probationary officer is allowed to begin solo patrol. Each step is approximately one month long but may take longer under extenuating circumstances. The officers that oversee all of this training are known as the field training cadre. The cadre is comprised of all active FTOs, the FTO coordinator and the FTO commander.

The FTO commander is the Patrol Captain Tony Kies. The FTO coordinator is Lieutenant David O'Connor. The coordinator is responsible for creating and maintaining the training schedules and training tasks for the probationary officers. The coordinator will facilitate monthly cadre meetings whenever a probationary officer is in training. Should a probationary officer begin to show performance deficiencies during their FTO training, the coordinator will meet with both the probationary officer and his/her FTO and assist them in developing a plan of action that will help the probationary officer bring his/her performance back up to an acceptable level. The FTO coordinator reports to the FTO commander and keeps the commander apprised of probationary officer's progress.

The most crucial position in the field training cadre is that of the Field Training Officer (FTO). The FTO is responsible for conducting all training and completing daily evaluations of the probationary officer's performance. Beginning the first day a probationary officer arrives from the academy, he/she is assigned to an FTO and they become permanent partners throughout the first step of training. This FTO is known as their primary FTO. The probationary will then rotate to two more different FTOs for steps two and three before rotating back to his/her primary FTO for step four of their training. The primary FTO is then able to see how far the probationary officer has advanced in his/her training. The primary FTO will be the one who recommends the probationary officer advance to solo patrol.

Becoming an FTO (Field Training Officer) is completely voluntary and officers wishing to become an FTO must go through an application process. Once their

application is received it is reviewed by the entire FTO cadre. The officers applying must have a solid work record free of any disciplinary issues. They must be self-motivated and able to work well in a team environment. Only officers that have demonstrated an above average work performance are considered for appointment as an FTO. Once the field training cadre votes on which candidates to recommend, those candidates are then reviewed by the FTO coordinator and the FTO commander before final approval is given. Once an officer is selected to become an FTO, he/she is sent to a 40 hour course, which teaches them how to train, evaluate and document the probationary officer's performance.

The officers selected to become FTOs are some of the best the department has to offer. The majority of FTOs see advancement into special assignments or through promotion. The months that FTOs are assigned to train are very time consuming for them and they generally have little time for anything else. They do this willingly, without complaint and minimal compensation for taking on the extra duty, because each FTO understands the importance of turning out a competent and self-sufficient officer at the end of the training process.

Implementation of software designed to assist the FTO's with training began in 2013. This involved some customization and inputting of the training tasks that we had already developed as part of the existing program. What this has done for us is it has streamlined the training process. We no longer keep daily training logs on paper. The program is a paperless system that is maintained online. The new officer's progress in the program can be reviewed by the FTO, Shift Supervisors and Command Staff at any time, by accessing the program by using a desk top computer or any Mobile Data computer in a squad car.

We had three new officers graduate from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in 2020 and are on solo patrol now. We hired three new officers in 2020. One certified officer in November, and the other two hired in December. They are in training at Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. This brings the department up to full strength of 41 officers.

The department continues its implementation of a mentoring program for all new recruits. The program works by pairing a seasoned officer (mentor) with a new recruit. The mentor then takes on the role of coaching the new officer as they transition into their new law enforcement career. The mentor will help the new recruit with everything from finding a place to live to learning and understanding the department's philosophies and politics. The goal of the mentoring program is to increase the department's retention of new officers.

Becoming a mentor is also a voluntary assignment. The mentor fulfills a different role from that of the FTO, therefore they cannot be one in the same. Those officers who volunteer for the mentoring program are screened for their suitability for such an assignment prior to being appointed. We are hopeful that this program will become a successful component in our efforts to slow down the turnover rate within the department by helping our new recruits become better adjusted and more comfortable with making Muscatine their permanent home.

Muscatine Special Operations Response Team (MSORT)

The Muscatine Special Operations Response Team (MSORT) is a specialized unit consisting of individuals who have received additional training in weapons handling and tactical incidents. The MSORT consists of long rifle marksmen (snipers), tactical operators, tactical emergency medical personnel, (TEMS) and negotiators. The number of members on MSORT fluctuates depending on manpower, school availability, and interest. Assignment to MSORT is completely voluntary and officers wishing to be considered for the team must go through an application process.

January 1, 2018 the Muscatine Police Department and the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office joined forces and created a multi-jurisdictional team currently known as MSORT. This replaced the SRT in both agencies and then MSORT was comprised of Muscatine Police Department, Muscatine County, West Liberty, Durant and Louisa County, Cedar County, Tipton and West Branch. All agencies entered a MOU and a board was created to oversee the operations of MSORT which is run by a Team Commander. The Commander answers to the board who meet quarterly to keep them updated and discuss future operations, expenses and training. The board consists of Muscatine Police Chief, Muscatine County Sheriff and Muscatine County Attorney.

MSORT is a team that consists currently of 29 members, down from 37. This number can vary due to personnel transfers. Of note, in 2021 the Assistant Commander was elected Sheriff of Muscatine County, one member retired from the team while taking a promotion within his own agency and the overall Team Leader position will remain vacant for the time being. The critical number that MSORT must sustain to meet NTOA standards as a qualified tier 2 team is 19 members excluding TEMS and Negotiations.

MSORT is currently under NTOA standards for training time, but strives to meet as many standards as possible. For the 2021 training year, MSORT will meet 152 hours of training, having (7) 2-8hr training months and (5) 8 hr. training months. MSORT entry team had over 132 hrs. of training in 2020 not to include any outside agency training. MSORT snipers conducted 96 hours of training and negotiators conducted 32 hours of training. The continued goal is to provide MSORT members with additional training hours, including outside instruction, which has been accomplished each year since MSORT's inception.

All MSORT members must satisfactorily complete a physical agility test and demonstrate a minimum 90% proficiency with their assigned weapons. Every tactical operator is put through a basic SWAT course prior to being activated as a member. This is usually a week long course and teaches the team member the basics of team movement, dynamic and deliberate entry techniques and breaching techniques. Long rifle marksmen are put through a sniper course, which covers stalking techniques and hones shooting skills. Team leaders receive training in tactical operations planning and execution. Hostage negotiators attend a forty hour hostage negotiation school. The TEMS members are paramedics from the Muscatine Fire Department who also attend basic SWAT school and are qualified to carry a firearm. This allows for emergency medical care to be readily available to team members, crime scene victims and suspects.

MSORT was previously named, Muscatine SRT, and was officially organized and conducted its first operations in 2001. Since that time, it has been used for the execution of high risk search warrants, to contain and/or engage armed barricaded subjects who have demonstrated a propensity for violence and in a joint hostage rescue mission with the state tactical team. On several occasions it worked jointly with the US Secret Service to provide site security for a visiting dignitary.

The MSORT has continued in its effort to explore new tactics and stay current in the team's methods of operations. MSORT members have built lasting liaisons with other region 5 tactical teams to include Iowa State Patrol. This has helped the department to establish common ground in both tactics and operational standards with the other area teams and these contacts have given us valuable resources we can draw upon should the need ever arise.

Activities

As stated above MSORT members participate in 152 hours of training per year. Members train at handling various scenarios which will cover everything from high risk search warrants, barricade/hostage situations to active shooter situations. The MSORT also trains in a variety of environments and learns tactics associated with tubular assaults, vehicle assaults, and residential assaults as well as commercial and industrial assaults. This training will often involve the use of role players which helps make the training as realistic as possible. In the past, the MSORT has conducted training for the entire patrol division on how to handle an active shooter situation. This department wide training also included training on the incident command system and the department's all hazards plan. The MSORT

has worked with several local companies and the Muscatine Community School District, GPC, Monsanto and HNI regarding preparedness for such events and trained in their facilities using their employees/students. This year the MSORT has continued efforts to reach out to area businesses and schools conducting more of the same type of training.

Operationally, MSORT was called out on 3 occasions in 2020 and provided assistance on 3 other occasions. These call outs include a barricaded subject, vehicle assault, drug warrant and search/arrest warrants for wanted subjects.

Case Example(s):

MSORT participated in a multi-agency operation in Burlington, IA in March, 2020. This operation consisted of the Des Moines County/Burlington PD SRT, Iowa DNE, Iowa State Patrol and Cedar Rapids agencies. Three residential targets were provided and several arrest warrants. MSORT was assigned to one of the three targets during the operation to further the overall investigation. The new armored vehicle was utilized and the residence was secured without incident. Two subjects were located and a third had left shortly before MSORT arrival. Recovered from the search was 2 sawed off shotgun, multiple rounds of ammunition, including .380 and 9mm caliber, 410 and 20 gauge slugs, as well as 40mm rounds.

In November 2020 the Negotiations team was called out to resolve an armed barricaded subject with mental issues. A team member from the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office was already on duty and assumed the initial roll of negotiator. Additional team members were called in and took over, proving the effectiveness of this collateral duty team. They attempted to utilize the subject's cell phone, PA system and family members to make contact. After the subject refused to maintain contact the negotiation was ended as the subject had not committed any crime. The subject was ultimately apprehended after exiting his trailer later by responding patrol officers.

Commanders and Team Leaders were able to update current MSORT policy and create a new portion for explosive breaching in 2019. This policy and training was put into effect in July of 2020, providing a demonstration to command staff and practically introducing the application to the team. MSORT is currently able to conduct explosive breaching assignments to aid in the rescue of hostages and achieve another step to becoming a Tier 1 team per NTOA standards.

MSORT was able to purchase a robot in 2020 with financial assistance from HNI, Kent Corporation and the Howe Foundation. This robot has the capability to view from multiple camera angles, provide 2-way communication, maneuver stairs and other obstacles as well as manipulate objects with an arm and claw. This robot was utilized successfully during several trainings this year, allowing members to learn its capabilities. There were no operational deployments of the robot in 2020.

This year did prove difficult with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, however, MSORT strove to train safely when available. Training was suspended during March, April and May, however, the team's dedication to its service was evident in the execution of tactics and procedure during each month we were able to train together. Members practiced social distancing and wore masks when appropriate and no members contracted the virus due to training, despite one member being presumably contagious during a particular training.

Goals

The MSORT will continue to strive for improvement and is always looking for new ways in which the team can better serve the citizens of Muscatine and Muscatine County. The MSORT will continue to seek out training opportunities which offer new tactics and equipment that will help improve our efficiency and expand on our ability to handle the situations the team is called upon for.

MSORT has continued to outfit and upgrade members with new and improved equipment. Currently all MSORT members are equipped with a level 3 load bearing vest and a ceramic plate to fit the front. The MSORT is still continuing to purchase equipment for all operators and is looking forward to adding several new members to the team in 2021. MSORT had intended to send 8-10 members to the 2020 NTOA conference which was cancelled, and expects to send the same number in 2021 should the association reschedule the conference for this year.

The team will continue to serve search warrants, respond to barricades and will train for hostage rescue. MSORT will strive to meet NTOA standards of 192 hrs. of training a year. MSORT is able to identify themselves as a Tier 2 team according to NTOA and will consist of a minimum of 19 total members from command down to entry and snipers. MSORT will make every effort to provide better services to the citizens of Muscatine, Muscatine County and the surrounding area in which it serves.

National and Local Crime Statistics

Annually, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) releases its annual Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR). In the report the FBI's *Crime in the United States, 2019* claimed for the second consecutive year, the estimated number of violent crimes in the nation decreased when compared with the previous year's statistics. These crimes are categorized by the FBI as (part 1) crimes and are made up of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. FBI property crimes (part 2) crimes are listed as burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. (NOTE: National UCR is a year behind in stats)

- In 2019, the estimated number of violent crime offenses was 1,203,808, a decrease of 0.5 percent from the 2018 estimate.
- The violent crime of murder and non-negligent manslaughter increased 0.3 percent in 2019 when compared with the 2018 estimate. Rape offenses (legacy definition) decreased 3.1 percent, and aggravated assault offenses increased 1.3 percent. The violent crime of robbery decreased by 4.7 percent when compared with the 2018 estimate.
- The 2019 violent crime rate was 366.7 per 100,000 inhabitants, down 1.0 percent when compared with the 2018 violent crime rate.
- The murder rate was 5.0 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019, remaining steady when compared with the estimated rate for the previous year.
- The estimated number of property crimes in 2019 was 6,925,677, a 4.1 percent decrease from the 2018 estimate.
- Of the property crimes, the estimated number of burglary offenses decreased 9.5 percent, and larceny-theft offenses declined 2.8 percent. The estimated number of motor vehicle thefts decreased 4.0 percent.
- The 2019 property crime rate was 2,109.9 per 100,000, a 4.5 percent decrease when compared with the 2018 rate.

Among some of the other statistics contained in *Crime in the United States, 2019*:

- Nationwide, law enforcement made an estimated 10,085,207 arrests in 2019. Of these arrests, 495,871 were for violent crimes, and 1,074,367 were for property crimes. (Note: the UCR Program does not collect data on citations for traffic violations.)

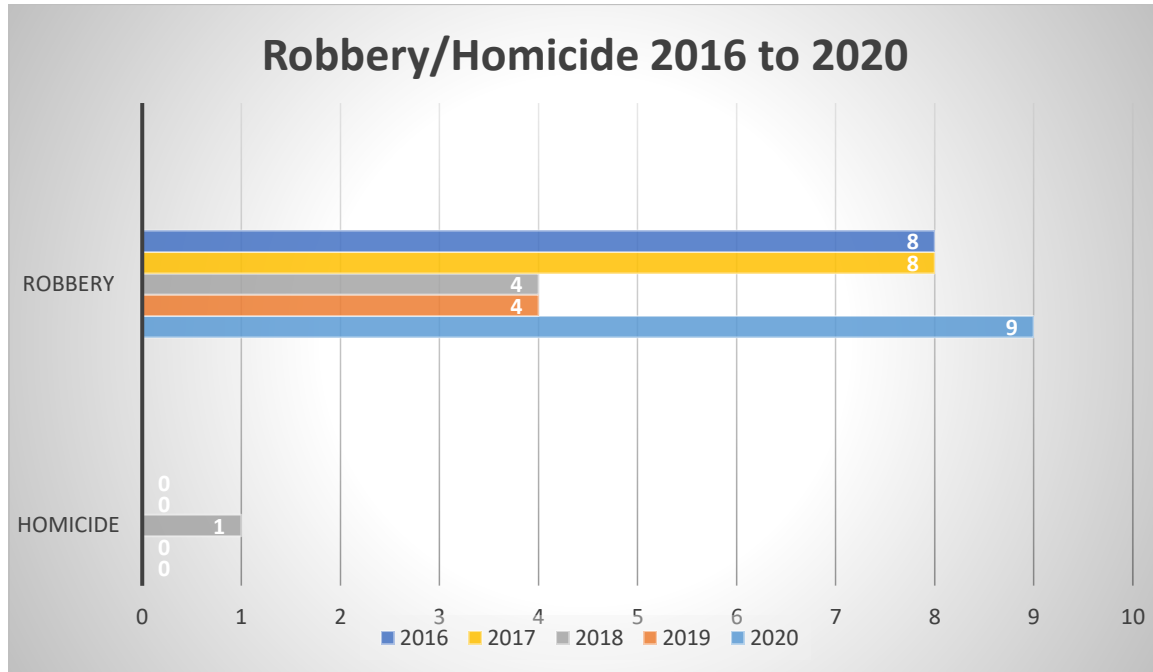
- The highest number of arrests were for drug abuse violations (estimated at 1,558,862 arrests), driving under the influence (estimated at 1,024,508), and larceny-theft (estimated at 813,073).
- The estimated arrest rate for the United States in 2019 was 3,011.0 arrests per 100,000 inhabitants. The arrest rate for violent crime (including murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) was 156.3 per 100,000 inhabitants, and the arrest rate for property crime (burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) was 343.3 per 100,000 inhabitants.
- Two-year arrest trends show violent crime arrests decreased 0.9 percent in 2019 when compared with 2018 arrests, and property crime arrests decreased 3.4 percent when compared with 2018 arrests.
- Arrests of juveniles for all offenses decreased 3.4 percent in 2019 when compared with the 2018 number; arrests of adults decreased 3.7 percent.
- Nearly 73 percent (72.5) of the persons arrested in the nation during 2019 were males. They accounted for 78.9 percent of persons arrested for violent crime and 62.3 percent of persons arrested for property crime.
- In 2019, 69.4 percent of all persons arrested were White, 26.6 percent were Black or African American, and the remaining 4.0 percent were of other races.

Muscatine Iowa UCR (2020)

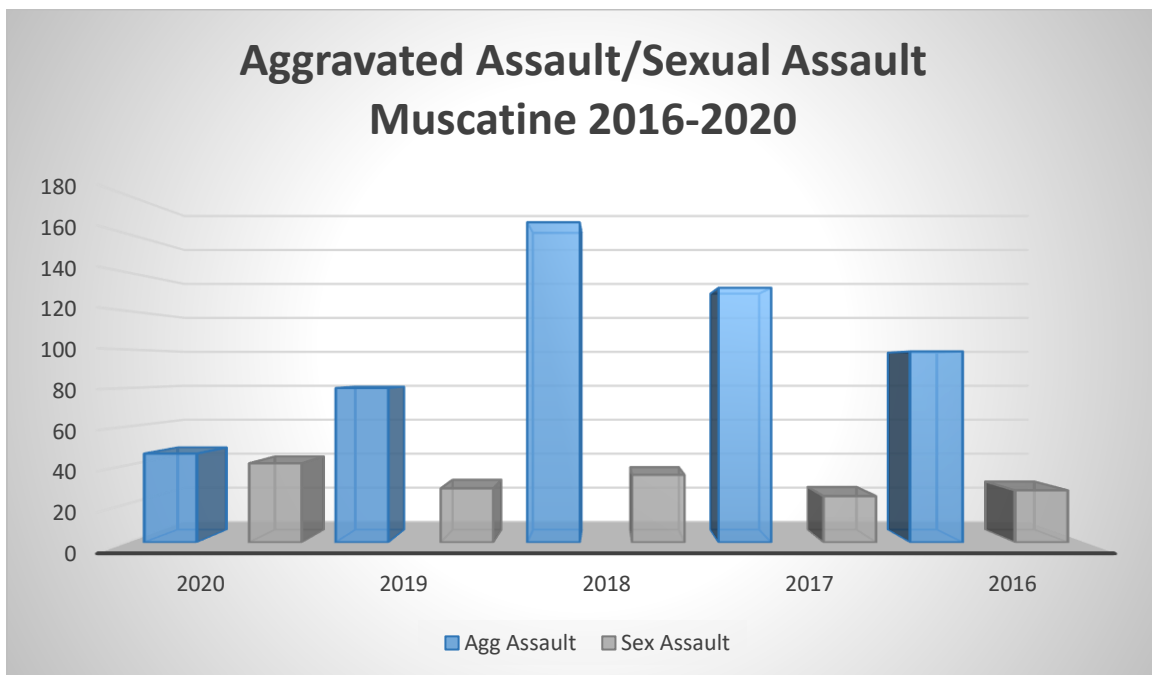
The City of Muscatine encompasses approximately (18.35 square miles) and has a population of 23,631 people. Muscatine, Iowa is the 22nd [largest city in Iowa](#) based on official [2019 estimates](#) from the US Census Bureau. The Muscatine Police Department (41 sworn personnel) responded to (18,019) calls for service in 2020. Within this time period police responded to and an Incident Crime Report (ICR) was generated for (52) sexual assaults (9) Robbery and (27) aggravated assaults (FBI part 1 crimes). Comparatively speaking, during the previous year the MPD experienced (41) sexual assaults (5) robbery and (46) aggravated assaults. Muscatine did not report a murder/non-negligent homicide in 2020.

Juvenile arrests during 2020 were also recorded and made up approximately 7.0% (71) of the total arrest made (998) by the Police Department. There were (85) fewer juvenile arrests than the previous year.

Muscatine Iowa / FBI (part 1) Crimes



Muscatine Iowa / FBI (part 1) Crimes



On average, in 2020, MPD case assignments to the Department's Major Crimes Unit netted a clearance rate of FBI Part 1 crimes was 72%. At a national level, clearance rates of Part 1 crimes registered approximately 54%.

Considering juvenile arrest in 2020, Muscatine PD made 71 arrests compared to 156 from the previous year. This was a 54% decrease from 2019.

JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Muscatine Police Department is involved in the Diversion Program for youths. This is a collaborative effort involving Juvenile Court Services, The Muscatine Community School District, Muscatine Police Department, Muscatine County Sheriff's Office, Wilton Police Department, and West Liberty Police Department.

The goal of the juvenile Diversion Program brings together individuals and teams of law enforcement officers, probation staff, prosecutors, school officials, judges, policy-makers, and other local leaders who are committed to strengthening their diversion efforts. Personnel who are involved in the diversion program receive in-depth training and guidance from national experts on innovative juvenile diversion policies, practices and programs while also benefiting from networking and learning across jurisdictions.

The Muscatine Diversion Program instructs students in corrective thinking methods, goal setting and behavior chain strategies just to name a few topics. Participants are required to actively participate in classroom activities and take personal responsibility for their actions. A parent or guardian must also accompany them. Parental support is a pillar of the diversion program and a parent or guardian must be present for the student to graduate.

Since January 2020 to October 2020, twenty two (22) juveniles were involved with the program. Of all referrals, nine (9) have attended. Thirteen (13) of the referrals failed to attend due to COVID.

Overall, the success of the Juvenile Diversion Program has been high. Collectively, the total referrals since inception (August 2018) to the program has received is hundred thirty one (131). One hundred four (104) have attended with only twenty one (21) reoffenders. This is an 80% non-recidivism rate. At the national level the non-recidivism rate for juvenile diversion rate is 80%.

WHAT ELSE DO WE DO?

Extra duty assignments have become a necessity within the Muscatine Police Department. Many non-probationary and probationary officers alike within the department are involved in an extra duty expertise, with many officers being committed to more than one area. Their dedication to the City of Muscatine in their perspective areas forces them to work additional hours outside of the traditional forty-hour work week. Some of the assignments include:

- Field Training Officers
- Firearms Instructors
- Muscatine Special Operations Response Team
- Hostage Negotiators
- Crime Scene Technicians
- Defensive Tactics Instructors
- Defensive Driving Instructors
- Chemical Munitions Instructors
- CPR/AED/First Aide Instructors
- K-9 Handler
- School Resource Officers

These listed assignments are a vital part of the effectiveness of the Muscatine Police Department. We are fortunate to have police officers who are dedicated to these programs and realize the vital part they play in offering a professionally versatile and well-rounded law enforcement service to the citizens of Muscatine.

Along with these additional duties comes the requirement of additional training to maintain certifications, as well as continuing education requirements, as many of these areas are ever-changing. The officers involved in these assignments are required to keep themselves current in new techniques being developed in things such as Defensive Tactics, Crime Scene Technician, Firearms Instruction, etc... Officers also need to keep up with the new case law that is developed in their areas of expertise to help protect the City, the officers they train and themselves from unnecessary liability. The training involved in maintaining these Instructor Certifications make up much of the Departments training budget.

Some additional assignments are needed to keep pace with the growing demand from the public to deal effectively with identity thefts, exploitation of minors (preying on minors via the internet) and other cybercrimes such as these.

Conclusions

In 2020 the department lost two officers (2), one (1) resigned and the other retired. The officer that resigned is not in law enforcement.

We hired four (4) new officers in 2020. Out of the new officers hired, one (1) is in the field training program and two (2) are currently at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. They are set to graduate in April of 2021. One resigned within a few months as she failed to make it through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA). We are fully staffed with forty one (41) officers on the department.

The Muscatine Police Department continues to maintain our accredited status. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) assess our department. Accreditation has helped our officers understand what is expected of them in relation to policy and procedure. The officers should be proud of this accomplishment. Accreditation would not have happened without their hard work and dedication. Accreditation helps us to maintain higher standards than most departments.

Five-Year Goals for the Police Department

1. Maintain our accredited status through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).
2. Continue working towards a department demographics that closely mirrors the community.
3. A new building or improvements for the Police Department.
4. Adequately prepare employees for future promotions, as many current administrative and supervisory personnel get closer to retirement. Continue to provide the most effective and up to date training for all officers.
5. To continue to foster positive relationships within our community through community policing efforts
6. To keep up with current technology and provide the officers the best equipment to make their jobs easier.

2020 was a challenging year due to the COVID 19 pandemic. We had to navigate through the year making various changes in how we conducted our business. Trying to keep not only our officers safe, but the citizens we dealt with as well. We changed how we handled many calls. Some we just called people on the phone to take reports if possible to diminish contact with people and still handling the situation. This was trying for the officers as this is not how we normally conducted policing. Our officers like the interaction with citizens. They did a nice job of adapting to the new “normal.” I commend them for how they handled themselves not only in 2020, but moving forward in 2021.

As 2020 ended, the Muscatine Police Department reflected on yet another great year of service to the community. This is an indication of the commitment to the community, excellence in organization, communication, leadership, and the loyalty of the men and women working in the Muscatine Police Department.

Chief Brett Talkington
Muscatine Police Department